

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending. Applicants have amended claim 5 to further limit the “calcium-containing compound” and “film-forming base agent.” Support for this amendment can be found throughout the specification, e.g., original claims 6, 8, and 10 (all cancelled); at page 4, lines 17-18; at page 5, lines 21-22; and at page 5, line 25 through page 6, line 16. Applicants have also cancelled claims 1-4, 6, 8-10, 12, 13, 19, and 20. No new matter is introduced.

Claims 5, 7, 11, and 14-18 will therefore be pending and under examination upon entry of the proposed amendments.

Claim objection

Claim 20 is objected to due to lack of a period at the end of the claim. This objection is moot in view of the cancellation of this claim.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-9, 14-17, 19, and 20 are rejected as being anticipated by Kawata *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 3,798,054) (hereafter “Kawata”). Applicants respectfully disagree. However, to expedite prosecution, Applicants have cancelled claims 1-4, 6, 8-10, 12, 13, 19, and 20. Therefore, only claims 5, 7, and 14-17 remain rejected over Kawata.

Applicants have amended claim 5 to further limit the “calcium-containing compound” and to incorporate the limitations of claims 8 and 10. Claim 5 as presently amended requires that “the calcium-containing compound is a water soluble calcium salt and the film-forming base agent is a water-soluble cellulose base polymer.”

Applicants would like to point out that claim 10, which recites that “the film-forming base agent is a cellulose base polymer,” is not listed among the claims that were rejected under 35 U.S. C. § 102(b). Thus, the rejection over Kawata has been met by amending claim 5 to incorporate the limitations of claim 10. More specifically, claim 5 as presently amended is directed to a film-forming composition that includes a water-soluble calcium salt and a water-

soluble cellulose base polymer. In contrast, Kawata does not disclose a composition containing water-soluble cellulose base polymer used for forming a film. Because Kawata does not disclose a composition meeting all the limitations of claim 5, this reference does not anticipate claim 5. Since claims 7 and 14-17 depend from claim 5, they also are not anticipated by Kawata. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw this ground for rejection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-3, 5-13, and 15-20 are rejected as being anticipated by Iwata *et al.* (WO 01/40182) (hereafter "Iwata"). As noted above, Applicants have cancelled claims 1-4, 6, 8-10, 12, 13, 19, and 20. Therefore, only claims 5, 7, and 15-17 remain rejected over Iwata.

Claim 5 as presently amended is directed to a film-forming composition that includes a water-soluble calcium salt and a water-soluble cellulose base polymer.

In contrast, nowhere does Iwata disclose a composition that includes a water-soluble calcium salt and a water-soluble cellulose base polymer, which can be formulated for forming a film. As Iwata does not disclose a composition meeting all the limitations of claim 5, Iwata does not anticipate claim 5 and the claims dependent thereon (claims 7 and 15-17). Applicants respectfully request this rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that claims 5, 7, 11, and 14-18 are in condition for allowance.

The fee for the One -Month Extension is being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 19331-002US1.

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Respectfully submitted,

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